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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	<div></div>	50X1
SUBJECT	Soviet and East German Military Units in the Probstzella-Eisfeld Border Area	DATE DISTR.	7 April 1955	
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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC					
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REPORT NO.

50X1

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 18 Feb. 1955

SUBJECT Soviet and East German Military Units in the Probstzella-Eisfeld Border Area

NO. OF PAGES 14

DATE OF INFORMATION

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50X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

A. Procedure for Obtaining Border Passes

1. The Probstzella (N 50-32, E 11-23) - Eisfeld (N 50-26, E 10-55) border area on the West German border was divided into two restricted zones. One was the "Five Kilometer Zone", which extended from the border to a distance of five kilometers inside East Germany. The other was the "500 Meter Zone", which extended from the border to a distance 500 m inside East Germany. The entrance into the Five Kilometer Zone was limited to residents in the area or to personnel who worked in that area in an official capacity. Residents were required to have a special stamp in their identification book. Persons who visited the residents were required to have an entrance pass (Einreisebescheinigung) which was procured only from the Kreis (county) police and Soviet Komendatura officials. Persons who worked in the area had to obtain a green pass from the Kreis police and Soviet Komendatura officials. Permission to visit within the Five Kilometer Zone was not difficult to obtain; passes authorizing entrance into that zone were issued by the Kreis police and Soviet Komendatura officials only when the purpose of entrance was of the utmost importance.
2. When any member of a Wismut A.G. topographic crew was required to work in a border area, a work-assignment letter indicating time, place, or area of work was provided by a Soviet civilian director of the Topographic Section of Wismut A.G. This letter was presented to the East German Kreis police officials in the area concerned. These police officials then informed the Soviet Army Komendatura in the Kreis of the authorization before the individual reported to the latter with the same work-assignment letter. When the individual reported, the Soviet Komendatura issued a special green pass which was stamped by both the Kreis police and Soviet Komendatura officials. If entrance into the Five Kilometer Zone was desired,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

50X1

the pass was marked "5 km Zone". If entrance into the 500 Meter Zone was desired, the pass was marked "500 meter Zone". In both cases the pass was always valid for a four-week period.

B. The Probstzella-Eisfeld Border Area (See pages 6 to 14)

Physical and Man-Made Features

3. From 1951 until July 1953, [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] the Probstzella-Eisfeld border area. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] this area was broken down into three Kreise... The East German Kreis, police offices and Soviet Army Komendatura headquarters were located in Saalfeld (N 50-39, E 11-21), Neuhaus (N 50-18, E 11-14), and Sonneberg (N 50-22, E 11-11).

4. The Probstzella-Eisfeld 500 Meter Zone was an unpopulated area occupied only by uniformed East German and Soviet personnel. Along the entire border were barbed-wire fences, road blocks, observation towers, and a 20-meter stretch of plowed earth where the ground could be plowed. Behind the plowed earth, there were either East German border police (Grenz Polizei) or Soviet-uniformed personnel. Source estimated that these uniformed personnel patrolled the area up to a depth of one kilometer from the border.

C. Border Guard Posts

5. Soviet military units and East German border guard units had command posts established from 220 to 800 m from the border and from 1.5 to 5 km apart. Source did not know of any specific schematic system used to define the area of responsibility between East German and Soviet units. Although Soviet command posts were interspaced with those of the East German border guard units, source did not observe any strict areas of guard responsibility for any one command post or any indications that the East German units were controlled by the Soviet personnel. Both East German and Soviet sentries had been observed patrolling the same area when their command posts were located near each other.

6. When members of the topographic crew entered the Five Kilometer Zone or the 500 Meter Zone, working alone or in groups, they contacted the local border command post in order to identify themselves and describe the purpose of their entrance, the areas in which they would work, the time they would spend there, and the transport they would use. Source did not know whether the latter was a required procedure or not. The local border command post telephoned the guard posts in the areas and alerted the guards to the fact that the crew would be working in their area. The crew then went to the work area and made their surveys without escort or further restrictions.

[redacted] never cautioned about land mines, anti-personnel mines, flares, or other devices which would have hindered [redacted] topographic work along the border. Both the Soviet and East German guards were very courteous, friendly, and showed no tenseness in their conduct or attitude.

7. [redacted] identify any Soviet or East German border unit by designation or subordination, list personalities, estimate strengths, describe weapons or transport, or indicate liaison channels. He observed both one-man and two-men patrols throughout the entire area and estimated that individual patrol areas were approximately two kilometers in length and one kilometer in depth. [redacted] 50X1
patrol dogs within the area but heard that they were used. He saw four mounted guards in the vicinity of Brennersgruen (N 50-26, E 11-28) and assumed that horses were used in other areas.

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-3-

50X1

Location of Soviet Command Posts

Spechtsbrunn (N 50-29, E 11-15) (See page 9) - One wooden barrack, 8 x 24 x 4 m.

Sonneberg (See page 10) - One three-story, reinforced concrete building which housed the Soviet Kreis Komendatura.

Hueckerswind (N 50-21, E 11-03) (See page 12) - Permanent-type farm houses.

Eisfeld (See page 13) - Permanent-type farm houses occupied by Soviet Border Komendatura.

Truckendorf (N 50-22, E 10-58) (See page 14) - Permanent-type farm houses.

Location of East German Command Posts

Brennersgruen (See page 7) - A Gasthaus in which 25 to 30 persons were quartered. The personnel were believed to belong to a border guard company commanded by a Soviet officer. Four horses, used by patrols, were stabled here.

Probstzella (See page 8)

No. 1: A Hq. building, three-story, constructed of reinforced concrete. It was located on the Marktplatz.

No. 2: A wooden barrack, 8 x 24 x 4 m, located in the vicinity of the railroad station. This barrack was believed to be the quarters for personnel who worked in the railroad station.

No. 3: A footpath used [] to help approximately 16 persons to cross the East-West German border in June 1952. []

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No. 4: See Zopten.

Zopten (N 50-31, E 11-21) (See page 8) - One wooden barrack, 8 x 24 x 4 m.

Lichtenhain (N 50-29, E 11-19) (See page 9) - One wooden barrack, 8 x 24 x 4 m, with a wooden fence.

Sonneberg (See page 10, No. 2) - The border guard Kreis command post, a two-story, reinforced concrete building.

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CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

50X1

Neuhaus-Schierschnitz (N 50-18, E 11-14) (See page 11, No. 1) - Three wooden barracks, 8 x 24 x 4 m, and one reinforced concrete building. About 80 personnel were quartered in this area.

Effelder (N 50-22, E 11-05) (See page 12, No. 2) - Three or four wooden barracks, 8 x 24 x 4 m, and several permanent-type farm houses.

Eisfeld (See page 13, No. 2) - Border guard command post hq, a three-story, reinforced concrete building.

Goersdorf (N 50-22, E 10-57) (See page 14, No. 2) - Two wooden barracks located in an old rifle range.

D. Uniforms

Soviet Officers

8. Source described the uniforms of the Soviet officers in the Probstzella-Eisfeld border area as follows:

Blue trousers with red seam piping, a khaki-green tunic with a stiff collar, a blue service cap with a red band and red crown-seam piping, and a khaki-green overcoat with red collar flashes.¹

9. Occasionally, officers wore khaki-green overcoats, khaki-green trousers with red seam piping, a khaki-green tunic with a stiff collar, and a khaki-green service cap with red band and crown-seam piping. Source observed the blue trousers frequently and the blue service cap very seldom. Officers' shoulder boards had a gold background with red stripes and piping. Occasionally, their shoulder boards had green background, not the same color as the uniform, with red stripes and piping.

Soviet EM

10. Enlisted personnel wore the following uniform:

Khaki-green trousers, a khaki-green tunic, a khaki-green overcoat, and a khaki-green overseas-type cap.

11. EM shoulder boards had both light green and red backgrounds. [] could not indicate whether or not any EM shoulder boards had piping of any color different from that of the background color. EM shoulder boards with a red background were worn by soldiers wearing collar flashes of the same color; EM wearing light green shoulder boards of a different shade from that of the uniform wore collar flashes of the same light green color on their winter jacket.

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East German Border Guards

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12. [] not distinguish between the various ranks of the East German border guard personnel but he described EM uniforms as follows:

Olive-green trousers and jacket with green collar flashes and an olive-green service cap with a green band and piping.

13. He could not describe the officers' uniform or shoulder boards but believed the shoulder boards had silver piping around the edges. He believed that the officers wore green piping on the trouser seam and on the cap crown.

CONFIDENTIAL

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50X1

-5-

50X1

13. 1.

Comment:

repeatedly questioned about the blue service cap and the green shoulder boards he allegedly saw Soviet personnel wear on guard duty. He insisted that these colors given for the cap and shoulder boards were the correct colors.

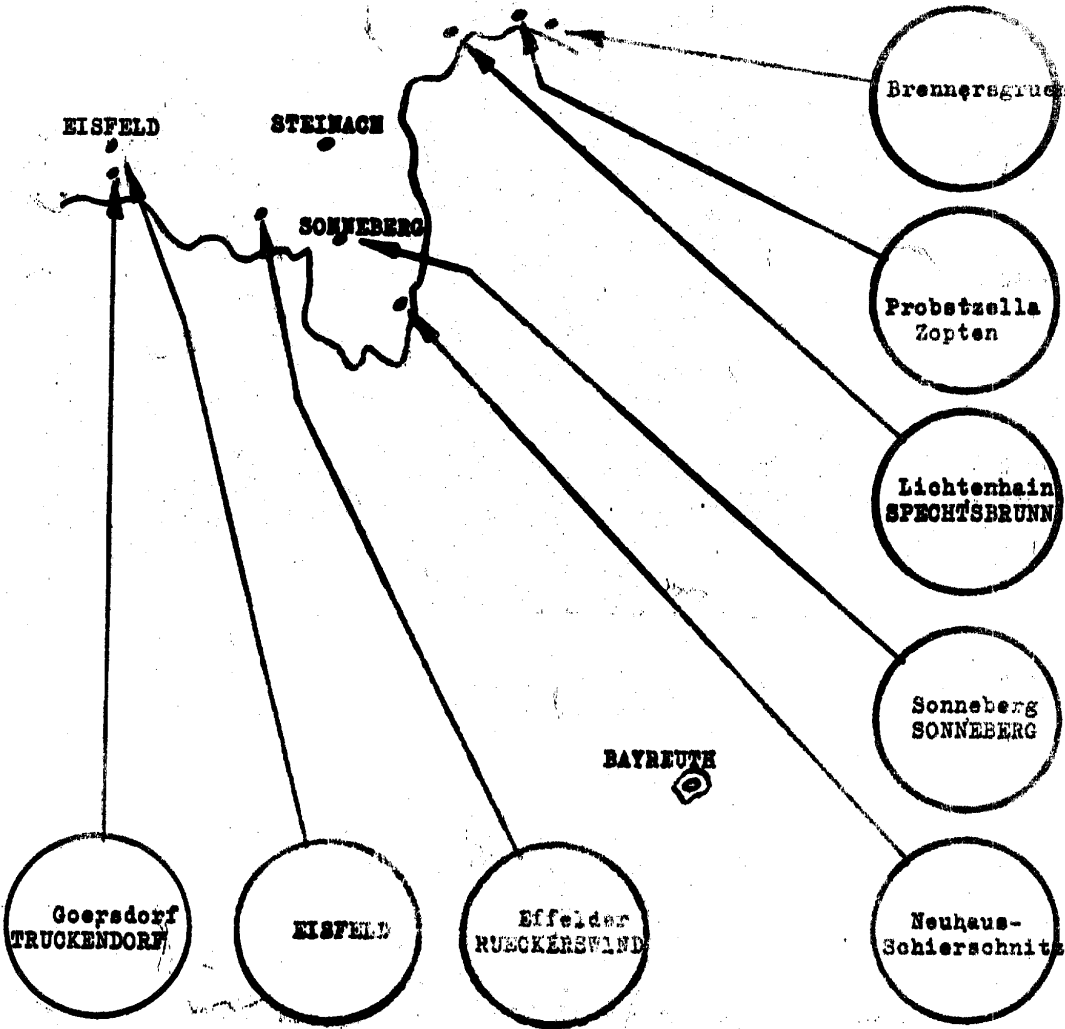
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-6-

East German Border Area of Probstzella - Eisfeld

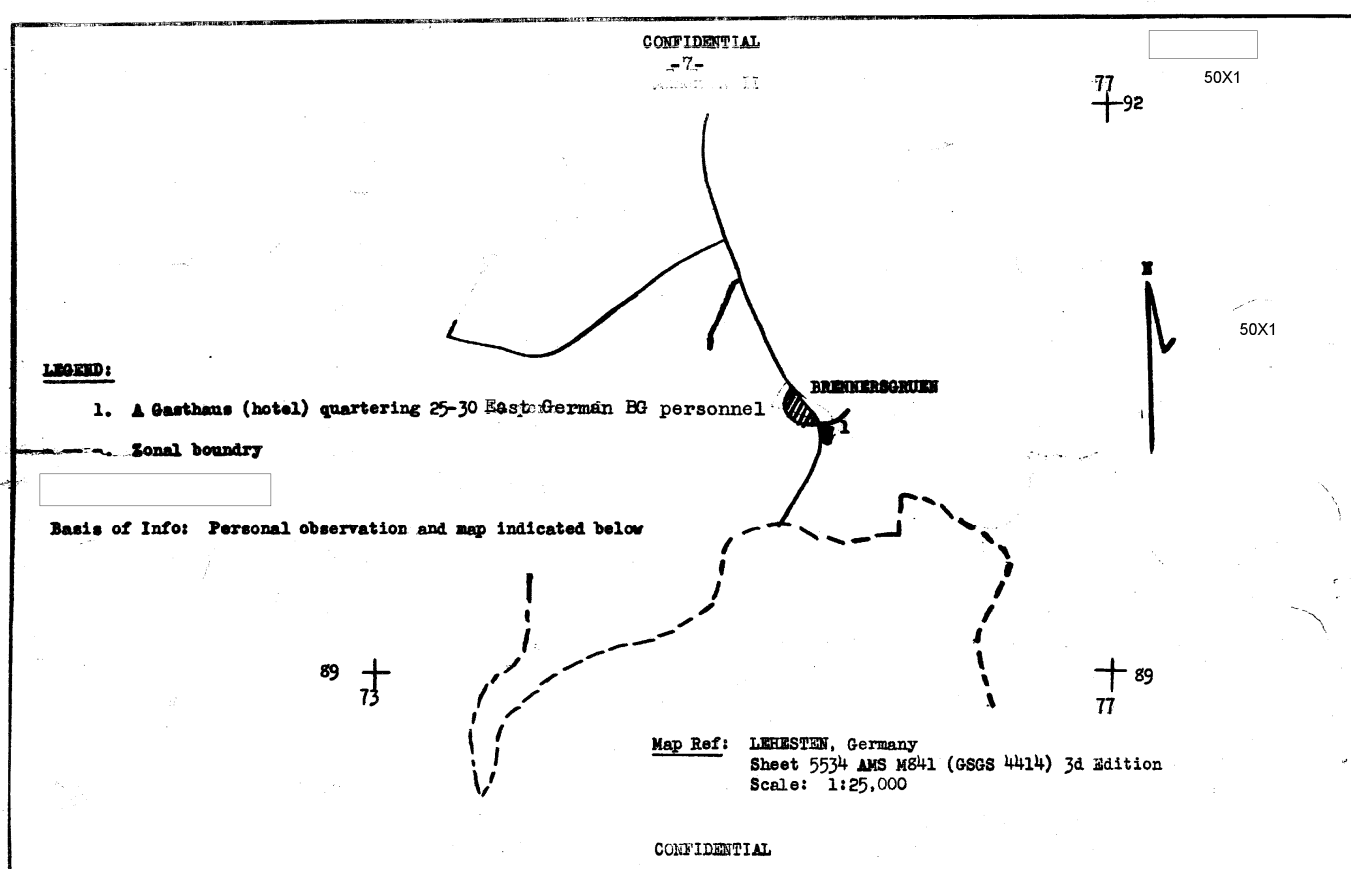


Map: US Army Road Map
Germany
1:500,000
Sheets 3 and 4

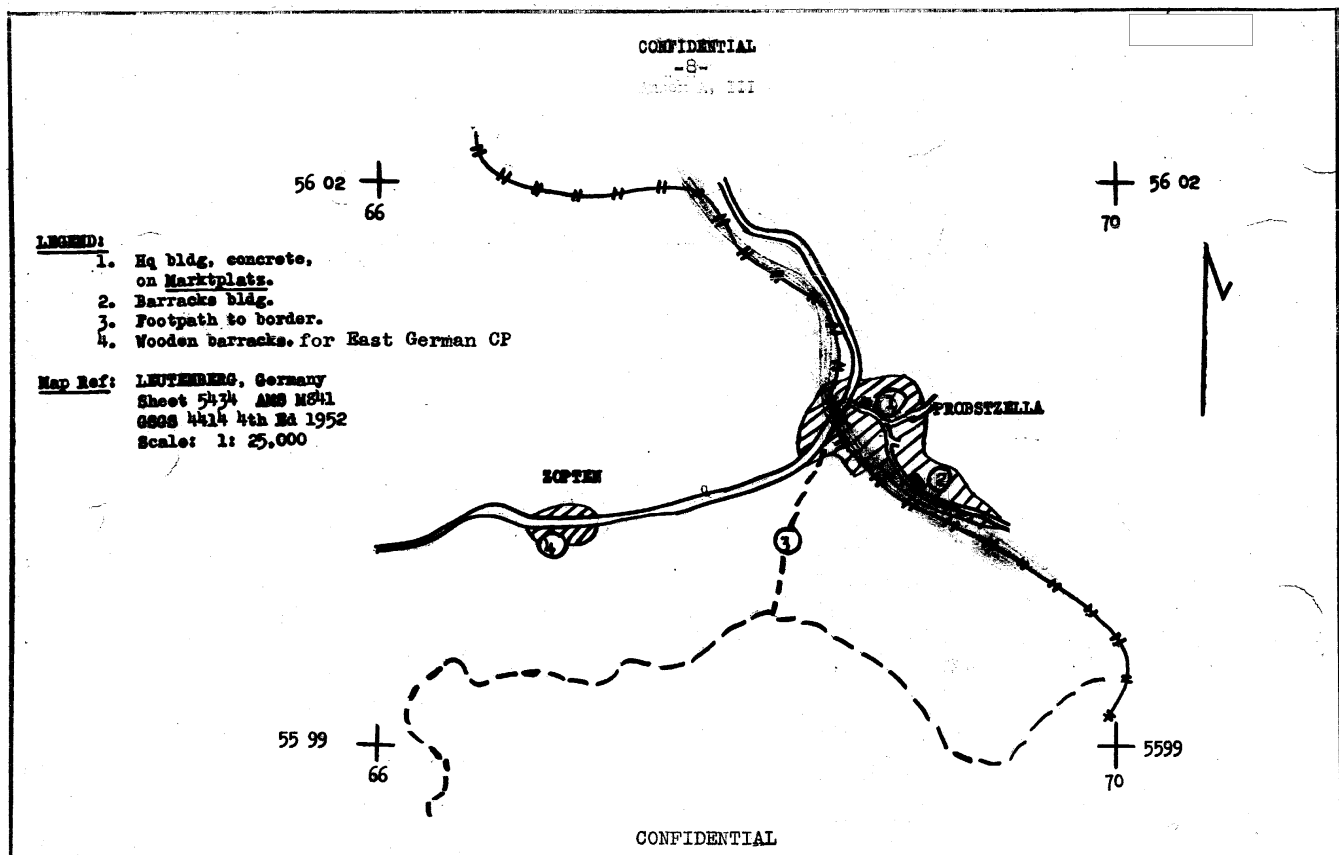
Note: Towns in small print indicate
observed locations of unidentified East German border units

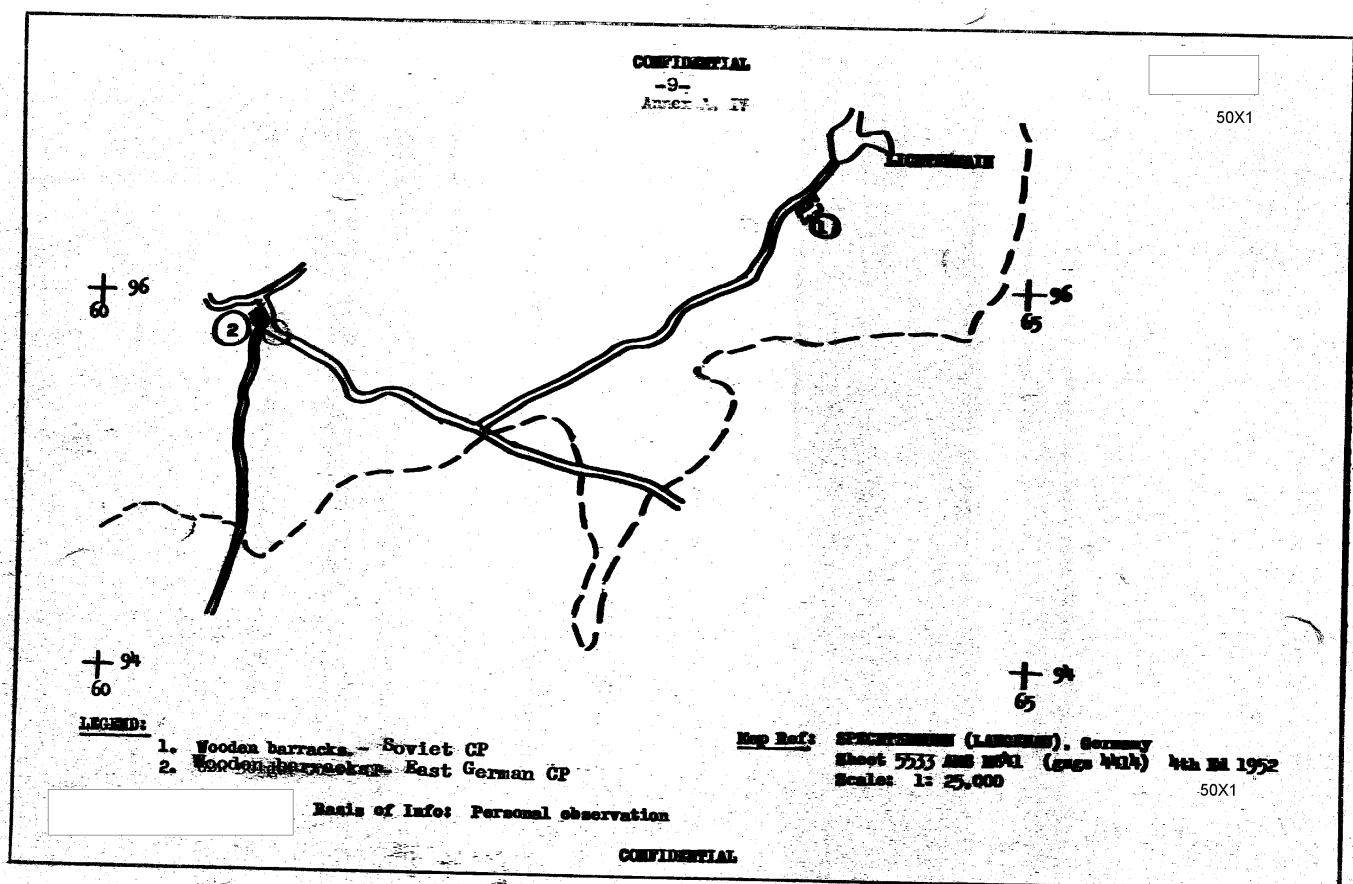
TOWNS IN FULL CAPS INDICATE
OBSERVED LOCATIONS OF UN-
IDENTIFIED SOVIET MILITARY
UNITS.

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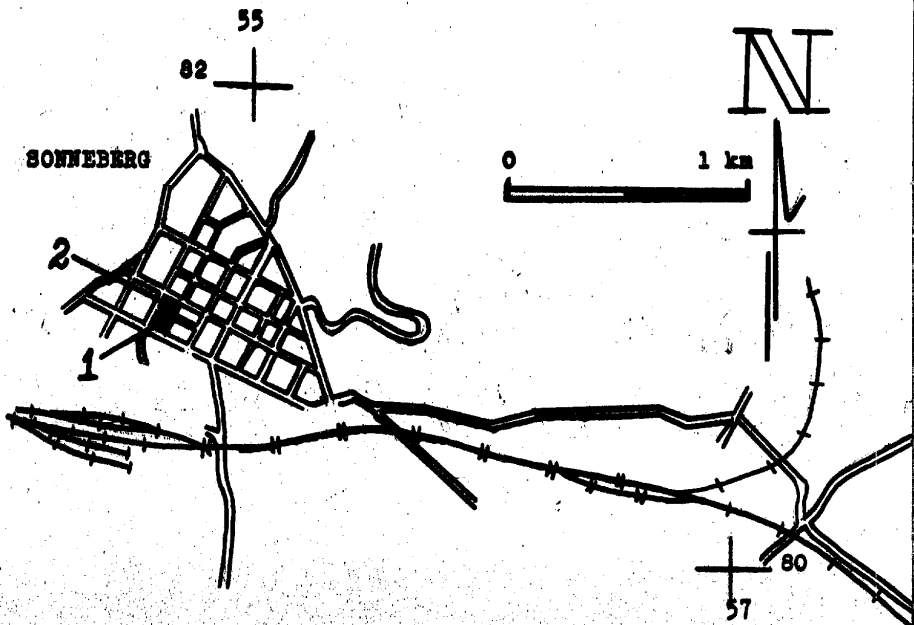
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CONFIDENTIAL
-10-
Annex A, V



LEGEND:

1. Soviet Kreis HQ building. Soviet border troops.
2. East German Kreis CP for border police.

Map Ref:

SONNEBERG, Germany
Sheet 5663 AMS M841
(page 4414) 4th ed
1952
Scale: 1: 25,000

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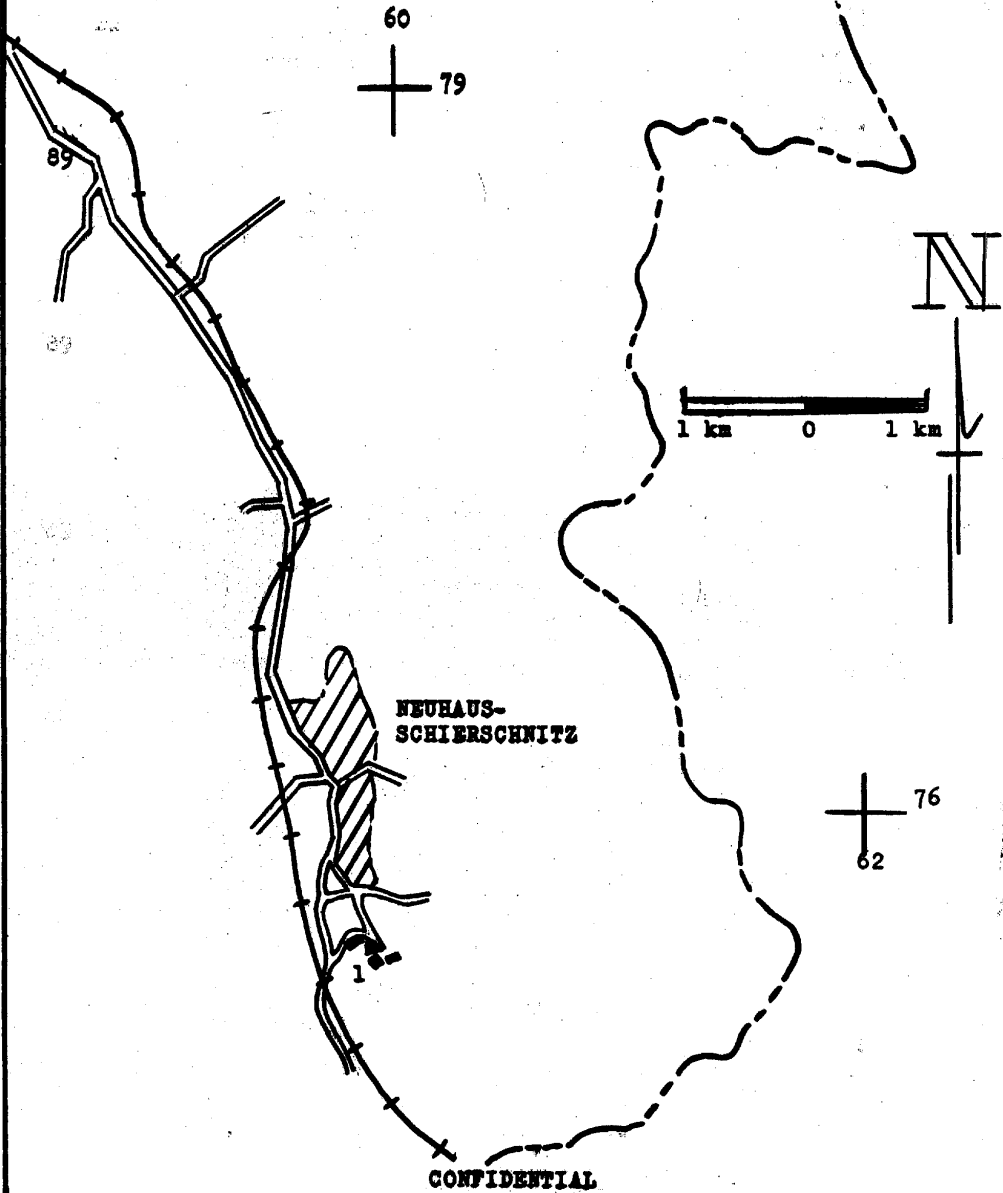
CONFIDENTIAL
-11-
Annex A, VI

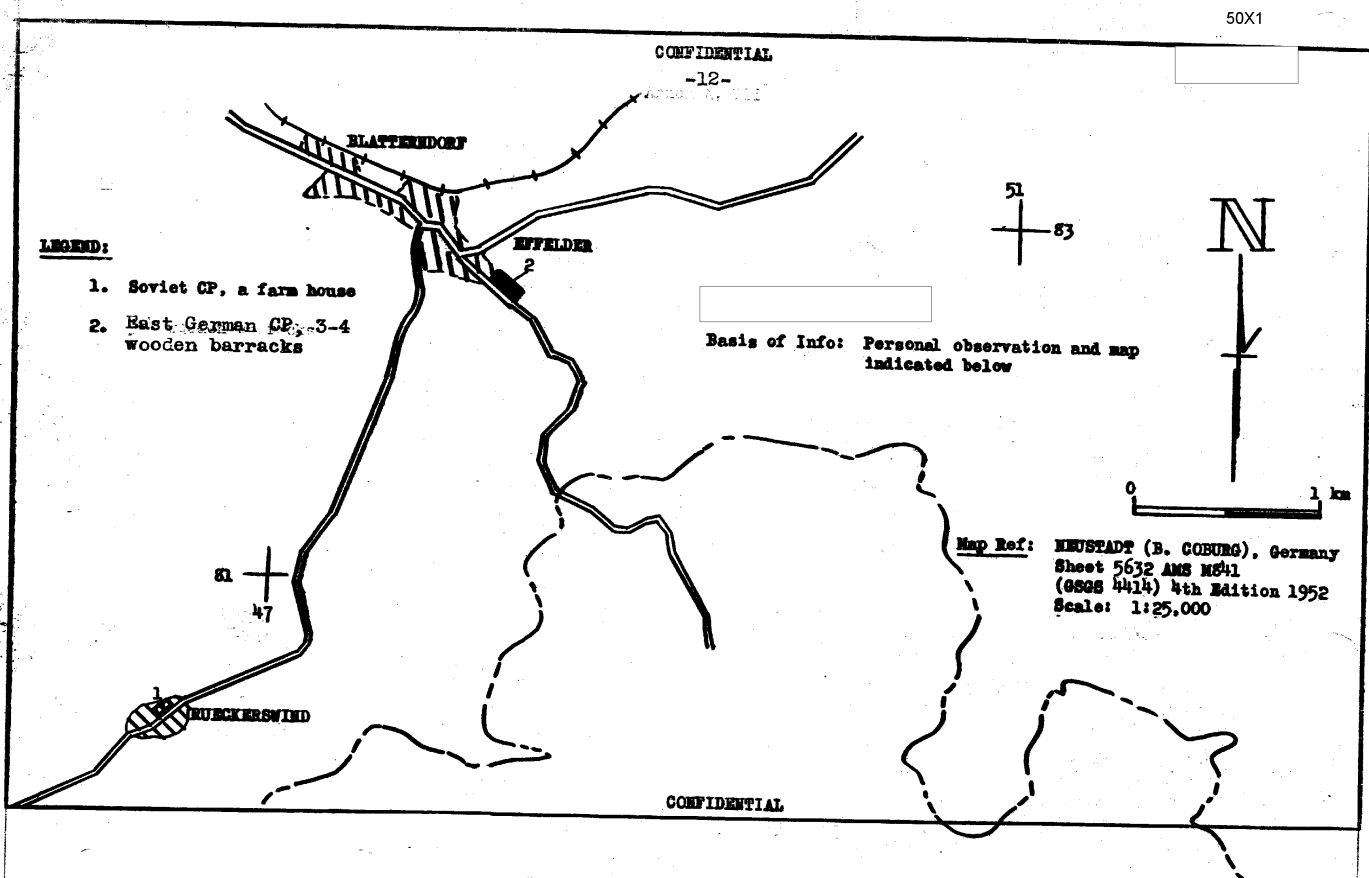
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LEGEND:

- 1. East German border
police barracks - one
of concrete and three
of wood.

Map Ref: SONNEBERG, Germany
Sheet 5633 AMS M841
(sgs 4414), 4th ed
1952
Scale: 1: 25,000





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CONFIDENTIAL
-13-
Annex A, VEMM

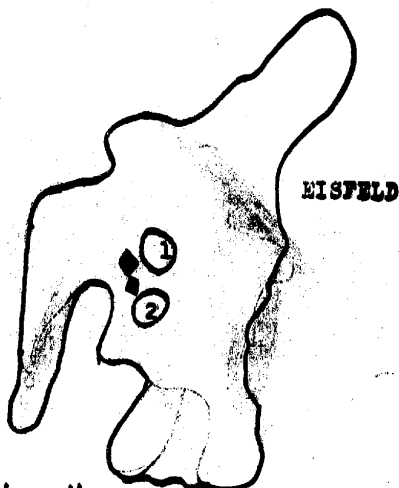
LEGEND:

- 1. Sov border guard
GP: a farm house.
- 2. East German border
guard GP: a reinforced
concrete building

Map Ref: EISFELD, Germany
Sheet 5531, AMS M841
(gsgs 4414) 4th ed 1952
Scale: 1: 25,000

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